

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X  
THE GUARDIAN NEWS, INC.,

Plaintiff,

-against-

VILLAGE OF PLEASANTVILLE,  
New York,

Defendants.  
-----X

**07 CIV. 5715 ORIGINAL**

07 Civ. ( )

**COMPLAINT**

**Jury Trial Demanded**

FILED COURT  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
2007 JUN 15 A 10:32  
S.D. OF N.Y. W.P.

Plaintiff THE GUARDIAN NEWS, INC., by its attorneys Lovett & Gould, LLP,  
for its complaint respectfully states:

**NATURE OF THE ACTION**

1. This is an action for compensatory damages, as well as related declaratory and injunctive relief, proximately resulting from Defendant's regulatory ban on the placement of newsracks on public property for the purpose of distributing free-of-charge the weekly newspaper published by Plaintiff, which ban violates Plaintiff's rights as guaranteed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, 42 U.S.C. §1983.

**JURISDICTION**

2. The Court's jurisdiction is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§1331, 1343, 2107.

### THE PARTIES AND THE MATERIAL FACTS

3. Plaintiff THE GUARDIAN NEWS, INC. is a New York domestic business corporation having its principal office for the conduct of business at 251 North Avenue, New Rochelle, New York. On a weekly basis Plaintiff publishes and disseminates, by *inter alia*, use of so-called newsracks, a free newspaper known as “The Westchester Guardian”. That publication focuses on and reports about amongst other things municipal corporate corruption.

4. Defendant VILLAGE OF PLEASANTVILLE, New York (hereinafter “Village”), is a municipal corporate subdivision of the State of New York duly existing by reason of and pursuant to the laws of said State. The Village has adopted and enforces the following code provisions, which provides in pertinent respect:

**“§155-4. Deposit of merchandise.**

A. Prohibited. No person shall deposit or permit to be deposited, stored, displayed or exposed for sale or allowed to remain any groceries, foodstuffs, lumber, furniture, ice, boxes, barrels, merchandise or any other substances whatsoever ever on any public street, avenue, sidewalk or crosswalk in the village, except when necessary for the purpose of delivery or transportation and then only for removal within one hour.

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**§155-24. Penalties for offenses.**

A violation of this article shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$500, imprisonment for not more than 15 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.”

**AS AND FOR A FIRST CLAIM**

5. Repeats and realleges as if fully set forth the allegations of fact contained in paragraphs “1” to “4”, inclusive.

6. Since Section 155-4(A) completely bans the placement of newsracks on public property within the Village, that code provision violates Plaintiff’s rights as guaranteed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, 42 U.S.C. §1983.

**AS AND FOR A SECOND CLAIM**

7. Repeats and realleges as if fully set forth the allegations of fact contained in paragraphs “1” to “4”, inclusive.

8. Sections 155-4(A) and 155-24 on their face constitute an impermissible prior restraint (without benefit of any time, place and/or manner limitations) on Plaintiff’s exercise of its rights as so guaranteed, 42 U.S.C. §1983.

**AS AND FOR A THIRD CLAIM**

9. Repeats and realleges as if fully set forth the allegations of fact contained in paragraphs “1” to “4”, inclusive.

10. Under the premises Sections 155-4(A) and 155-24 have chilled Plaintiff in the exercise of its rights as so guaranteed, 42 U.S.C. §1983.

WHEREFORE a judgment is respectfully demanded:

- a. Declaring Section 155-4(a) of the Village Code violative of Plaintiff's First Amendment rights,
- b. Ordering the Village to enact, consistent with Plaintiff's rights as guaranteed by the First Amendment, a code provision concerning the placement of newsracks on public property within the Village,
- c. Permanently enjoining Defendant from enforcing as against Plaintiff Sections 155-4(A) and 155-24 of its code,
- d. Awarding such compensatory damages as the jury may determine,
- e. Awarding reasonable attorney's fees and costs, and,
- f. Granting such other and further relief as to the Court seems just and proper.

Dated: White Plains, N.Y.  
June 2, 2007

LOVETT & GOULD, LLP

By: 

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